

# OTHER NETWORKS

a newsletter about networks of people



VOL 2 NO 1 PUBLIC INTEREST MEDIA PROJECT

SUMMER 1983

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## INTRODUCTION

"Networking" is a new term for the old process of people connecting people... everyone has a personal network of relatives, friends associates and other contacts. Other Networks exists to serve people who are interested in augmenting and extending network processes.

THIS ISSUE began to take form last November during a trip to Colorado. I made the journey to visit the Office for Open Network run by Leif Smith and Pat Wagner in Denver. Denver is very network conscious (no doubt, in part due to the efforts of Leif & Pat) and the days spent in the network office brought a sense of the real value of doing this newsletter and of supporting networks in general. Pat describes some aspects of her work on page 4, and other evidence of my trip to Colorado appears throughout this issue.

IN JANUARY I purchased a Vic-20 computer for use as a terminal. Most of February and March found me sitting entranced by the TV screen with the Vic plugged into the telephone. My phone bills soared as I scouted around the country in vain for people worth contacting via the amateur computerists' bulletin board systems. A friend made some time on the Eric database available to me -- now that is a resource! -- And then along came a month of free time on Delphi. As you might be able to tell from the extensive material herein reproduced, I enjoyed the folks on Delphi - and, long for enough money to continue to transport myself to the magic world of instant contact. On-line communications may not appeal to everyone, but there is an addictive quality to it for some of us.

THE VIC also served this newsletter in a direct way. Sally's employer, Libby Goldstein, made an Apple computer available to me (we developed a mutually beneficial resource exchange) and I used the Vic as a remote terminal to transmit my typing to the Apple for later editing and printing. My thanks to Libby and all the folks at the Extension office for their help and toleration of "that strange man" who comes in to use the computer.

SPECIAL THANKS for permission to quote their writings on Delphi go to Steve Bashaw, Mike Werner, Jim Collie, and Fred Dudden. Also thanks to Fianna, Jimm, Kip, Gandalf, WEB, Gyro, Mermaid and of course, Mike Cane who first introduced me to Delphi in his newsletter, Dial-Out (see p 14).

BEST WISHES go to our former treasurer, Julie Mills. Julie is getting married and will move to Cleveland, leaving Sally without a housemate... Sally will be moving in with me... so she can work extra hard on the next issue of Other Networks. --Stan

## OTHER NETWORKS

Volume 2 Number 1 Summer 1983

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## OTHER NETWORKS

SUMMER 1983

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### PEOPLES' YELLOW PAGES SIMPLIFIED --

...by Ellery Foster

Described here is the yellow pages system that has been used for 2 1/2 years at the We-Know-Now Free Trade Exchange in Winona, MN. It isn't the only way it can be done (some use a card system) but this way is simple and convenient to use. It requires three letter size ring binders, and sheets punched for insertion in the binders.

Keep it simple. This is not a prescription for the kind of commercialized trade exchanges that have been receiving considerable publicity lately. Rather this is for people, such as retirees, who want to use people's yellow pages to increase the volunteer service and mutual aid going on among participants in a church, union hall, food co-op or similar people's place.

Each participant fills out a "yellow sheet" (we use yellow paper for this) putting name and address in the upper right hand corner. On the front of the sheet they list (describe) services and/or goods they are willing to provide, including any teaching skills. On the back of the sheet they list (describe) kinds of help they would like to get from others, including any learning needs, as for teaching, tutoring, coaching in specific skills or fields of learning.

The system requires one or more persons able and willing to keep the ring binders up to date and accessible. When completed yellow pages are received, they are inserted in alphabetical order (by names) in one of the ring binders. The binders are equipped with alphabetical guides for ease of reference.

The second ring binder is used for alphabetical arrangement of offerings, together with names of individuals making the offers. A single sheet lists a specific commodity or service together with names of all those offering it. Examples are childcare, carpentry, hauling, guitar instruction.

The third ring binder is used for alphabetical arrangement of help needed by kinds of help, and with names of those needing it.

This is all there is to it. Use of it is up to the participants. They either come in and look up for themselves what they want to learn from the yellow pages. Or they phone in and ask whoever is "tending the store" to look in the yellow pages for them. Then when individuals wanting and offering a specific service or good find each other, it is left to them to make arrangements that are mutually satisfactory. This may be barter or a cash transaction. But one of the most pleasant things that happens frequently is when the person providing help just says, "you don't owe me anything. You just help someone else when they need it."

At the beginning we set up a 4th ring binder recording "work credits" as plusses and minuses on the accounts of sellers and buyers, in the same manner as banks record transactions in checking accounts. Most of our participants feel that this smaks too much of commercialism for people interested in bringing about a revival of the kind of mutual aid that presumably preceded commercial enterprise. Nevertheless a few participants still use it, and information on it can be supplied to anyone desiring it. Could be useful for public works employment.

When people come into the "store" for the first time and start looking through the yellow pages, they often get so interested that they spend a half hour or more seeing the diversity of offerings and wants listed, ranging from Art/Craft to Yard Work. This often gets them interested to fill out a yellow page.

(reprinted from the  
CONSCIENTIOUS MUTUAL AID Free Trade Exchange)

Published by Ellery Foster  
122 E. 2nd St.  
Box 841  
Winona MN 55987

Networking is supposed to be some new, extraordinary behavior that our culture discovered along with granola and space flight. As someone who helps to run an office devoted to networking and network theory, I find the idea that I helped to invent a new process amusing. The truth is, the process we call networking has existed as long as human beings have communicated with each other.

First, let me propose a generic definition for networking: information and idea exchange for mutual benefit. There is nothing in this definition that says networking is only about getting a job, promoting a political cause or bartering furniture for canned goods. It is not a definition weighted for good or evil.

In our theory, there are three kinds of networks. The first kind, which we consider the most important, is the personal network. We all have dozens of personal networks, based on the things we do in the world, our friends, family, etc. The lady across the street who takes care of your cat when you are away on a trip, the bus driver who breaks company rules and lets you off in front of your church on cold Sunday mornings, the relative who is an expert on the stock market, are people with whom you have information exchanges all the time.

The second kind of network is called a focused network. These networks can be formal or informal, but they are based on some kind of common idea. We talk about four kinds in our office - networks of geography (all the people who live in a certain apartment house or who spend their summers in Monte Carlo); networks of intent (the Republican Party membership, people who want to stop a factory from being built); networks of interest (chess clubs, independent scholars) and networks of world view (Methodists, people who think nuclear power is safer than coal power). These definitions are a little contrived, but they seem to help people get a handle on the idea of a network structure.

Simply calling a club or an institution a network is not enough. As I mentioned, giving something a new name does not necessarily change its function. Unless one of the primary functions of the organization is the exchange of information among its users or members, it can not properly be called a network.

The third kind of network is something we pay attention to at our office. It is a process we call Open Network. To the best of our knowledge, the idea was first discovered by my partner, Leif Smith, and no other project pays attention to Open Network in the way we do.

The best analogy I have for Open Network is the ether theory popular in the 19th century. The ether was alleged to be a universal substance, invisible and infinite, that permeated space and matter. It was supposed to have special qualities that scientists used to explain the unexplainable in their physics equations. We see all networks, focused and personal, as entities in this Open Network. It is sort of a philosophical glue that holds everything together. Like the mythical ether, it is invisible and permeates everything, and its qualities are subtle.

Open Network is that process that connects people who might not at first seem likely candidates for exchange of ideas and information. A teacher needs someone to wash her cat. A book publisher needs to interview a forensic pathologist. An Italian cook wants to learn about high technology sales. A traditional church needs a futurist to speak at a church retreat. An environmental scientists who fund-raises for non-profit organizations needs to interview someone who is experienced in running a dance marathon. In each case, the personal and focused networks these people use are not sufficient to find what they need. However, they know someone knows how to do these things or has the information they want. Our job is to direct them to individuals or focused networks to whom such a request is not unusual.

However, Open Network is just as likely to connect two scientists in the same field who live on the same block in the same city and belong to the same swim club, but who, somehow, never got around to discussing their shared work in bioengineering.

We base our matches on common sense and good guessing. The determination to put two people together is based on a simple idea - both parties would find the connection interesting, at the very least. By paying attention to the needs of everyone involved, we avoid what we consider a cardinal sin of networkers - Being Boring. So, a job hunter who comes to our service can't simply get a list of people to interview for information. Why should these people want to talk to this person? A company selling a product or service needs to think beyond simply making a sale to get contacts through us. On the other hand, there are users who use us mostly for spiritual growth. What fascinates me most about the process of Open Network are the fuzzy borders between many seemingly different enterprises.

Networking is very easy, but, like other tools, it takes some time to become good at it. Asking a stranger about the philosophical significance of Messianic expectation in 20th century economics requires courage. But you don't have to plunge into deep water immediately. Here are a few ways to start networking on a small scale.

1. Make a list of three long-term goals you are trying to accomplish. Ask at least ten people you meet over the next week for leads or information concerning these goals.
2. The next time you run an errand, ask your co-workers or family members if you can do something for them on the way.
3. Call up someone you haven't talked to in six months. Ask the person what he or she is doing and how you can be useful.
4. Pick an obscure topic that has always interested you. See how many people you have to ask before you find someone who is knowledgeable about this topic. Particularly ask people you are fairly sure know nothing about the subject. Prepare to be surprised.
5. Participate in a conversation by saying nothing. Listen. If the other person runs out of breath, be quiet and contemplate what has been said. See what you can learn. Prompt with questions that ask why and how.

Networking begins with common sense, uncommon courtesy, to quote Stewart Brand, and an appreciation for the diversity of explorers on the planet. Perhaps it is such a powerful tool that we are pretending. After all, if we had been doing this all along, perhaps the planet would be in better shape.

We hope you use the networking process to help all the things you think are important. You don't need an office or a fancy title. Just try to be useful and let others be useful to you - that's all it takes.

\*\*\* \*\*

Pat Wagner and her partner, Leif Smith are proprietors of Network Resources which provides three kinds of services - the office for Open Network, an eight-year-old idea and information exchange with users in most states and several countries; workshops, consulting and articles on networks and information systems; and Leif Smith's electronic notebook system. For a current price list and information write or call:

## DENSMORE DISCOVERIES

My meeting with Dan Densmore will remain with me for the rest of my life. Few people that I have ever met are as dedicated to their work, as humanitarian and as practical as Dan.

Dan's business, Densmore Discoveries (or "DD" for short) involves making appropriate contacts for people. In his literature he calls himself "A finder of people, services, opportunities, facilities, and appropriate technologies for those who take pride in their work, property, and code of conduct." Some of the ideas he uses in his business were stimulated by his contact with Leif Smith and the Office for Open Network. But, although both businesses put people into contact with each other and both use intuitive skills, developed through long practice, to recognize and make appropriate referrals, the similarities end there. Where as, the Open Network is literally open for all to use, Densmore Discoveries people must meet Dan's specifications of quality and pride. Dan's approach to advertizing his service is also quite different from the Open Network. Dan's primary focus is on building maintainance. He refers only the best home care professionals, commercial contractors, independent contractors, house cleaners, child care people, etc. for whom he promises to find the best in the way of customers, thus maintaining a reputation with both service providers and their prospective customers.

Home care, building maintainance and contracting, while being the mainstays of "DD", by no means covers the extent of "services" available through Dan. Using a filing system of his own design, Dan covers the entire range of human activities. He divides the Universe into less than 100 catagories and using an incredibly compact card file, claims that "anybody can bring up literally any subject, and chances are I'll have some contact they can use." His motto is: "DD deals with ANYthing relevant to good life in the real world." With that in mind he publishes a long list of services which range from A for accounting to Y for yard work. In between, is everything you might want to ask from someone who meets and connects people with great sensitivity and practicality.

Dan is shy about talking about the ideas behind his work. He feels that most people just need good service and don't need to understand a whole lot of philosophy on why and how a service like DD works. With some encouragement, however, Dan shared with me a view of the mind behind the service and some of the inner workings of Densmore Discoveries.

What is seen immediately upon entering Dan's realm is the neatness with which Dan surrounds himself. Nothing is expensive looking, just perfectly clean and in the right place. It is very comfortable, too. Dan sits among an efficient U shaped arrangement of desks and storage elements, everything he needs is within reach. A master time board and a time management system of his own design which operates on pieces of paper and careful attention to detail, makes it possible for Dan to keep track of dozens of simultaneous "jobs in progress". Ask Dan to remind you of an appointment five years from now and you'll get a phone call on the appointed hour! The filing system that Dan has devised is so efficient that he doubts he'd ever want to use a computer.

With these "simple" elements and the telephone, through which Dan handles most of his clients' needs, Dan feels that he is helping to build a "bio-dynamic" community. A community built on honesty and respect in which resources are constantly being identified and needs fulfilled. Dan is in love with his work. He says with pride that his hours are from 1 - 10 PM everyday, even on holidays.

In a world where value and quality seem to diminish daily, it is truly an experience to meet a man like Dan Densmore.

-- S P

DENSMORE DISCOVERIES P.O. Box 18-x  
Denver CO 80218 (303) 388-7438

## The HEALING LIGHT FOUNDATION

IT SNOWED on the day I traveled from Denver to Steamboat Springs, Colorado. I arrived after dark, the 5 hour bus trip through the Rocky Mountains having transported me through a thousand picturesque scenes. When the snow first started, I thought it was just a freak storm - flurries. By the time we were driving at 11,000 feet, there was real snow on the road way, our driver was called upon to display his skill just it seemed to keep the bus on the road, yet he managed to keep to the schedule and I was treated to views of a fantasy land of snow and mountain unknown to someone who thinks that Virginia's Skyline Drive is on a mountain top.

I had come these many miles to meet Richard Fox and Cheryl Anstraus who are the active information people in a small but dedicated alternative health referral network. Richard is a central figure in far flung "family" of hardy individuals who have a common concern for wild country, health, natural living and spiritual values. He and a small number of devoted friends support the information services of the Healing Light Foundation by bidding on Federal (and occasionally commercial) tree planting contracts. The fulfilment of these contracts takes a coordinated effort which may involve dozens of people at locations hundreds, perhaps thousands of miles apart. Their work takes them from the flatlands of Mississippi, to the Rocky Mountains of Wyoming. The company claims to have planted over a half million trees in 1982 alone.

Cheryl Anstraus is a midwife as well as the person currently charged with the care and "feeding" of Healing Light's Apple computer. She is in the process of transferring several thousand file records from cards to magnetic disk for retrieval by keyword with the Apple and will provide information requestors with print-outs of information on a variety of health, community and spiritual topics. The list below indicates some of the areas covered by the file records now in the computer.

ACCUPUNCTURE	ASSORTED	GREENHOUSES	METAPHYSICAL
AGRICULTURE	BIRTHING SUPPLIES	HEALER	MIDWIVERY
APPRENTICESHIPS	BREASTFEEDING	ILLUSTRATOR	NETWORKER
BIRTH OPTIONS	CHILD CARE	MAGAZINE	ORBS
BOOK BUSINESS	CLASSES	METAPHYSICS	PARENTING
CENTER	COLLEGE	MOBILES	PUBLICATION
CHILDREN	COMMUNITY DESIGN	NEWSLETTER	SCHOOL
CLINIC	EVENTS	ORGANIC FARMING	SPEAKER
COMMUNITIES	FAMILY	PERMACULTURE	TEACHER
COMPUTER	FARMING	PUBLISHING	WICCAN
EDUCATION	LIBRARY	SEMINARS	WORKSHOPS

write Cheryl Anstraus  
Healing Light Foundation P.O. Box 880400, Steamboat Springs, CO 80488 (303) 879-7322

## INFO BAZA

...by Don Roberts

Networking is, in my experience, composed of two major types of activity. The first is informal, the second is more planned and conscious.

Info Baza is a combination of the two, but depends for its' organization on an information and referral system which serves the spiritual and "new age" communities in and around the Twin Cities in Minnesota (Yoga, holistic health, appropriate technology, coops, new games, etc). Thus it is a working model of a data base (on Indexes cards\* at the moment, to be translated and transferred to a micro computer in the near future) the intention of which is to inform and ecumenicalize the spiritual community and provide matrices for alternative life styles.

By joining the Open Network (in Denver) recently the hope is to serve other regions of the country and to make the working model available to others. What is needed is continuous refinement, expansion and change to make the service functional for the intended groups and individuals. Thus I welcome the dialogue available via "Other Networks" to exchange information and obtain needed support. This would be especially useful if Other Networks connects us with people who are working with spiritual data.

The major problem in providing information to the spiritual communities is that many groups and individuals feel that the information at their disposal (within their discipline's network) is "infinite", and thus the people are channeled within fairly low levels of focused information.

The problem of isolation is not as great for people working in the area of alternative life styles and energies (self reliance, et al), but there are similarities, especially in specialization. My particular concern is in interlinking both the spiritual and alternative lifestyle information and people. The neces-

\* INDEXES, Arlington, Vermont, Multi-Purpose Deck

## THE PROFESSIONAL WRITERS NETWORK

"The Professional Writers Network will celebrate its first anniversary in April (83). From a fledgling idea, the network has grown in a short time to an organization of increasing national recognition. While most of the action is still in the Rocky Mountain area, markets from Hollywood to New York are using our referral services. We can boast a talent pool of dedicated professionals in almost all types of writing."

So writes Ken Freed, founder of the Professional Writers Network; in the introduction to Issue No 2 of the ProWriter News. The newsletter is an additional feature of the network which offers as its main function to be a referral service for markets looking for writers. The newsletter contains articles on various means for writers to sell their wares as well as a number of classified sections in which writers and those seeking particular types of writing can advertize their needs. Also covered are sources of information, ranging from publications to services for writers such as indexing and editing. And of course, there are listings of job openings for those who tire of the vagaries of freelancing.

ProWriter News is published bimonthly for members of the Professional Writers Network and others using the network's referral services. Subscriptions for non-members are \$20/year.

To subscribe or to receive membership information, contact:

Ken Freed, Director, The Professional Writers Network, 916 Lafayette St.  
Denver CO 80218 (303) 863-9613

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sity for this is obvious, and is being encouraged in several publications. In practice, the so-called "Aquarian Conspiracy" is not happening that much, y e t.  
Info Baza, 3921 France Ave. S., Mpls.  
Mn. 55416 (612) 929-9049.

## THE WWOOF NETWORK

Back in our third issue (summer 82) we had a resource note on Western WWOOF. At that point we had no idea what "WWOOF" meant and simply reported that they offered to match workers with organic farmers who would feed them and give them a place to stay while they learned to farm. Since then we heard from Lionel Pollard who not only operates "Willing Workers On Organic Farms" in Australia, but also maintains lists of alternative services and organizations active in New Zealand and Australia as well as other parts of the world. He provides these lists for a small fee to correspondents throughout the world. (see his address below).

Lionel's list of the "W.W.O.O.F. Network" included Jean Nye as the Mid-Atlantic Workers On Organic Farms, so I wrote to her to see if she could help to up date the current activities of this Network.

She wrote back:

Dear Stan,

I appreciate you including the apprenticeship programs in your publication. Could I see a copy of the article when you've published it?

Thank you for telling me about "Wholeperson Communications". I will be in touch with them.

I made one correction and a few additions to your apprenticeship program list. It is enclosed.

I have enclosed also an application for MAWOOF and a recent newsletter, for your information.

We currently have 89 members (27 farms and 62 workers). We appreciate any publicity you can give us so we can grow. We especially need more workers. We have growers in every state we cover except Delaware. We published our first newsletter in May 82. People interested in a learning / working experience on an organic farm should write to me for an application.

Thanks for asking about us. Let me know if I can give more help.

Sincerely,

Jeanne A. Nye

Here is the combined and corrected listing of the W.W.O.O.F. Network:

WILLING WORKERS ON ORGANIC FARMS  
Lionel Pollard  
7 Duncan Avenue  
BORONIA Victoria 3155  
AUSTRALIA

MID-ATLANTIC WORKERS ON ORGANIC FARMS  
Jean Nye  
4002 Dunston Ave. #22  
Richmond VA 23225

NEW ENGLAND WORKERS ON ORGANIC FARMS  
Gary Olson  
Box 42  
Mt Sunapee, NH 03772

SOAP  
Utopia Garden Center  
P.O. Box 45-06  
Utopia TX 78884

WORKING WEEKENDS ON ORGANIC FARMS  
(Washington Small Farms Resource Network)  
c/o Neal Bittner  
3231 Hillside Rd. Deming  
Deming WA 98244

CLFA Apprenticeship Program  
Richard Meadow  
Anabel Taylor Hall  
Ithaca NY 14853

SATIVA  
Box 2410 Sta. A  
Champaign IL 61820

MOFGA Apprenticeship Program  
Sue Sergeant  
Box 2176  
Augusta ME 04330

NATURE ET PROGRES LISTE DES STAGES  
Chateau de Chamrande  
91730 Chamrande FRANCE

TILTH WORKING WEEKENDS  
Doug Longhurst  
4922 N.E. Goings St.  
Portland OR 97218

HYGIENIC COMMUNITY NETWORK  
1231A Oxford St.  
Berkeley CA 94709  
(U.S., Canada, & South America)

WORKING WEEKENDS ON ORGANIC FARMS  
188 Collingwood Street  
NELSON, NEW ZEALAND

NFC Apprenticeship Program  
Doug Jones  
Birdsfoot Farm  
Star Rt. Box 138  
Canton NY 13617

WORKING WEEKENDS ON ORGANIC FARMS  
19 Bradford Road, LEWES, Sussex  
LEWES, Sussex BN17, 1RB ENGLAND



## NETWORKS IN COMMUNITY PLANNING - Two Papers

In a paper titled Informal Participation: Marrying the best of SIA and CP presented at the first international conference on Social Impact Assessment, in British Columbia on Oct 22, 1982, Christopher Bradshaw, community relations officer (for 8 years) with the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, described his office's switch to a technique of city planning which uses informal and personal contact as a means of developing new planning proposals.

Prior difficulties led Bradshaw and his colleagues to the conclusion that "structure and formality are useful only to sanction decisions, not to create the "stuff" of decisions." The paper presents the method his staff is now using to contact people in communities (and in government) to provide an avenue for dialog among the concerned and potentially concerned, before conflict disrupts the planning process. "The basic unit of informal participation," he writes, "is the encounter, which operates in an environment which is neither public nor private." Using well planned sessions at first and then less formal ones, his staff people keep in touch with a variety of concerned individuals, providing them with information about the thoughts of others and gathering their thoughts as input to the process. These (community or government) contact people are encouraged to act as liason for other concerned citizens and or officials who may not need (or want) to have direct contact with the planners.

Directors of programs, commissioners and politicians, as well as citizens, become a part of the planners' internal network. The staff uses the "visit" to keep them informed of what people in other parts of the network are thinking. The officials help to guide the planners to people who need to participate in the planning process and set priorities which they will use in making final decisions on the results of the planning work. "This keeps (the officials) better informed and removes the chance that they will oppose the policy at the end."

The second paper The Organization of Adaptive Community Planning: on building institutions for collaborative problem solving, by Thomas Burns of the Social Sciences Department and Management and Behavioral Sciences Center, Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, was presented at a conference of the U.S. Man and the Biosphere Program, Directorate II in Miami, FL May 20-22, 1982. It presents theoretical concepts which have been developed in a number of disciplines such as cybernetics (Ashby), organizational management (Emery & Trist) and adaptive planning (Ackoff).

Burns regards "a community's governance system as a system of institutional regulators that enables as well as constrains change." "Increasing rates of change intensify the need for institutional restructuring to permit greater adaption to, or control over, new situations." He defines two major modes of community governance, one in which the parts are considered subordinate to the whole and the other in which the parts interact with each other. These he calls "organism" and "ecosystem" respectively, the organism being a hierarchical metaphor and the ecosystem a pure network of interactions.

The paper goes on to show the relationships between these two descriptive metaphors, how they operate in social systems and how social regulation depends upon the appropriate balance of both in systems of governance.

This paper contains an extensive bibliography of resources in management, organizational design, social systems and planning. It provides a theoretical system within which to view the work reported on in the first paper, by Bradshaw, while opening doors to new ways of understanding human society.

Christopher Bradshaw may be reached c/o The regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton 222 Queen St. Ottawa Ontario K1P 5Z3 Canada.

Thomas Burns can be reached at the Management and Behavioral Science Center, 4th Floor Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, Phila. PA 19104.

## NEW ENGLAND NETWORK OF LIGHT DIRECTORY

very different from many of the "new age" directories we have seen, although somewhat similiar in format to the others (each group included presents a full page of logos, photos and text about their lives, work and the services they offer.) The impression that these groups are truly a network comes through clearly. Their offers of places to go for workshops and retreats which are similar in appearance to the many offered in other New Age advertizers, seem to have more depth. Some even offer to barter the use of their facilities, their woods, farms and psychic energies rather than simply charging fees.

The relationships of the groups listed to each other is expressed in the introduction to the directory: "There isn't any official membership in the usual sense in this network, other than groups voluntarily contributing a page to this directory. Participation in the network is through the process of connecting and interacting with other groups - visiting, bartering, exchanging skills, etc. and through attending the quarterly gatherings..."

Besides the Directory, the network publishes a quarterly newsletter containing dates and locations of gatherings and council meetings, as well as acting as a facilitating tool for barter and exchanges. The Directory is \$4.50, pp c/o Sirius Community, P.O. Box 388-O, Amherst MA 01004

## THE 1983 GUIDE TO HEALTH ORIENTED PERIODICALS

In these 103 pages, Jeff Breakey, publisher of the monthly /Sproutletter/, provides clear, easy to read capsule reviews of hundreds of small publications. His level of detail is extraordinary. A code system provides additional information on each publication such as amount of advertizing, size of pages, what kind of paper, frequency of publication, sample price and more. The only way to get more info on any of the publications Jeff reviews is to get one and sniff it. His handy book also has an index which references the publishers as well as the publications.

Besides personal health subjects, the guide also covers gardening & self-sufficiency, ecological and environmental health, spiritual health and a variety of regional & international periodicals as well as other guide books on subjects such as networking. One very useful feature is an appendix of periodicals which have gone out of business.

The 1983 Guide is an indispensable tool for libraries, bookstores, researchers, advertizers of health products or anyone interested in health, exercise and the wholeness of life. It is a compact labor of love measuring 5 1/2" x 8 1/2" and selling for \$4.95, pp.

A notice on the back cover proclaims that "all information is completely up to date as of January 1983."

SPROUTING PUBLICATIONS P.O. Box 62 Ashland OR 97520

## PHILADELPHIA RESOURCE GUIDE

This 230 page, 8-1/2" x 11" paper bound guide book to human services features photographs of Philadelphia's services in action and concise descriptions of community groups, organizations, educational & cultural institutions, programs, government agencies and businesses which help to fortify the physical, cultural, social and spiritual health of this city of neighborhoods.

The Guide contains more than 2,000 entries. Each organization listed either submitted material or was interviewed by the staff of Synapse, publishers of the Whole City Catalog in 1972 and 1974. The process of researching the current guide went on for over three years. Considering the rapidly changing make-up of the city's non-profit sector, an amazing level of completeness and accuracy has been achieved in this work. As a Philadelphian, and as a reviewer of directories from around the world, I salute and thank Judith Wicks, editor, and her staff for a job well done!

The Philadelphia Resource Guide is available in book stores throughout the city for \$9.95 or from SYNAPSE, INC. 3420 Sansom St. Philadelphia PA 19104 (215) 222-3359

## COMPUTERS...

--as tools for COMMUNICATION...

((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((ON - LINE COMMUNICATIONS))))))))))))))))))))))))))))))))))

IN OUR LAST ISSUE we offered the adventures of INFOMAN, "Proposal for a Communication Center" and "Vision of a Neighborhood Office in 1985" all of which dealt with the computer as a communication tool. People are beginning to realize that the term "computer" is a misnomer and that these general purpose machines will find the bulk of their use assisting human communications in various ways. "Word processing" and mail list handling are specific examples of computer applications which have nothing to do with "computing", but instead provide people with a flexible machine for the manipulation of symbols.

THE SUBJECT OF THIS REPORT is known as "on-line communications." What this means is that the user (a human) uses a personal computer or a "computer terminal" (which is basically an electronic typewriter keyboard) to connect with a larger machine (usually called a "host") by telephone. So far this doesn't sound very exciting, but other users can also connect to the host computer which can provide a variety of communication services for all the users. The easiest of these functions to explain is electronic mail, or "e-mail". Electronic mail is the use of a host computer to store a message addressed to another user of the host. When the addressee connects to the host he or she is informed of the waiting message.

ANOTHER SERVICE which can be provided "on-line" is the direct connection of two or more users in a live conference. In this case each user types out messages which are inserted into the stream of messages from the other users. The host may attach identifying tags to each message to indicate who is "speaking"

WE'LL BEGIN OUR EXCURSION into the "on-line" world with reviews of a book and two newsletters. Then a number of pages will be devoted to material collected while actually on-line to a host system called Delphi.

book review...

## THE COMPLETE HANDBOOK OF PERSONAL COMPUTER COMMUNICATIONS

by Alfred Glossbrenner

St. Martin's Press, New York 1983

On line services are providing a gateway for meeting and maintaining contact with people through home computer terminals. Mr. Glossbrenner's book is one of the first ever to document this flourishing new medium of communications. In clear and efficient declarative prose, the book defines many of the terms being employed in computer communication and provides valuable information for both the experienced and novice computerists.

In the first chapter are descriptions of the various services available: the encyclopedic databases, the Information Utilities, free computer bulletin board systems, computerized conversation and conferencing systems and methods for commuting to work by computer. The second chapter tells what kind of system is needed to access these services and sets the minimum price at a reasonable \$300.

The chapters which follow describe individual services. A whole chapter is devoted to Compuserve as well as one for "The Source". Both Compuserve and The Source cater to home use with low evening rates and both have the equivalent of many users clubs, called special interest groups or SIGS. People in SIGS hold nitely or regularly scheduled events such as lectures and workshops, but mostly they chat. This can be done in pairs only on The Source, but on Compuserve (and Delphi, which we'll review seperately) special programs permit group discourse, with the participants all seeing the typewritten comments of all the other participants, each supplied with the writer's name in a box like this:

STAN> Hi, everyone.

to which "everyone" may reply.

The encyclopedic data bases, like Dialog, BRS and ORBIT have a chapter in which these sources of fast article retrieval are explained. They provide abstracts and titles pertaining to keyword searches by their users of thousands of different publications from popular magazines to scientific journals.

Amateur computerists also provide services to the computing community in the form of free computerized bulletin boards. Glossbrenner gives many references to sources of phone numbers of local bulletin boards all across the country. There are literally hundreds of these free services through which anyone can access other computerists for a wide variety of purposes. Most of these boards specialize in a particular kind of computer, but many are "sexually oriented" or used by people with other specific interests like astronomy or chess. The amount of privacy which exists on these systems varies. The sexually oriented systems often have elaborate password routines and new users must spend time "chatting" with the owner to prove "adulthood" or at least maturity, before being given access to the sometimes very adult messages contained in the system.

The concepts of shop at home services, computerized conferencing and telecommuting are all given separate chapters as well as one chapter specifically for the more technical aspects of this medium.

The only drawback this book has is its thoroughness. There are so many services and systems to access and (according to the author) they are all an absolute must for the adventurous computerist questing for new friends and valuable sources of information.

**RESET**

RESET ... subtitled "Notes on Alternative Informatics" is an 8 1/2" x 11" newsheet which has grown from two pages to eight in four issues. It covers political and socially progressive uses for micro computers.

Articles have included a report on the effort by Interlink to enable non-profit groups world wide to communicate by computer conference and electronic mail. According to RESET this service is now available through Dialcom, an information utility.

Another article written by Matthew McClure of The Farm in Tennessee, describes that community's many uses for computers - from publishing and word processing to the community's bookkeeping for their various businesses.

DIAL - OUT

Once you have read Mr. Glossbrenner's book (see review on the previous page) and/or purchased a computer terminal, you are ready for DIAL-OUT newsletter, published by the electronic network sleuth, Mike Cane in N.Y.C.

DIAL-OUT will help keep you informed about today's latest developments in TeleCOMPUTING. In his latest issue (#2), Mike brings us news of the first phone directory of computer users to be planned by a major phone company (Northwest Bell), details the beginnings of the TravelHost Network (100 terminals in Chicago's Midland Hotel, hooked to a national telecomputing network by phone lines with over 20,000 hotel rooms already under contract), updates the availability of the British Prestel videotex in the U.S. and presents two new on-line systems for Photography: "Photonet" and "photo-1". Also presented are "Startext" in Texas, and "Gameline", just for owners of video game terminals of a special design.

One feature of Dial-out especially useful for people looking for more information on telecomputing is the "Telecom Watch" page. This is a whole page (over 60 entries) of titles and references

RESET is the only newsletter which covers the area of computerized communication for political concerns. It is important reading for anyone who wishes to keep up to date on the many possible and existing applications to social and political issues.

RESET is packed with contacts and short notes on organizations like "Info Liberty" in San Francisco, the Micro Club of Sri Lanka and conferences like "Telematique Pour Les Gens" (Telematics for the People) in France.

The latest issue, #4, has (besides articles and news) two pages of correspondence and feedback from readers, complete with the addresses of each. It is an excellent networking tool.

RESET is available for postage...  
Send \$1 (cash or stamps) to  
Mike McCullough, 90 E. 7th Street #3A  
New York NY 10009. (212) 254-3582

to articles written in recent (1983) issues of computing magazines about communications systems, services and equipment.

Subscriptions to Dial-Out are \$25 a year for twelve (12) issues mailed via first class mail in an envelope. Single copy sample price is \$2.00. DIAL-OUT 175 Fifth Ave. New York, NY 10010 (201) 653-5775

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After writing the above review, I thought to ask Mike for his thoughts on whether or not I had just invented the term "telecomputing" and this was his reply:

No, you didn't invent "telecomputing." It's been around. Popular Computing magazine has a column called that. I DON'T cover telecomputing, though -- I cover microcomputer telecommunications -- which telecomputing is a subset of. Computing per se is the interaction of an online pgm. I cover more of the info retrieval end, see? Would rather see "micro telecom" as a tag, than "telecomputing."

**Mike**

[illegible]

THE FOLLOWING PAGES CONTAIN examples of communications which occurred on a new communicating host system called "Delphi." References to "The Source" and/or "Compuserve," refer to two other "computer utilities" which perform similar functions for their users. The Source is the "old timer," it was the first large data base system to become available for home use during evening hours at prices home computerists could afford. All of these services offer more than communications, games are a standard fare as well as news services and computer programs which permit the users to dial-up extra computing power and storage space. Both The Source and Compuserve list hundreds of kinds of information, while Delphi, the newcomer, is offering access to other systems through what it calls "gateways" as a means of offering its users a wide variety of services while still in the development stage.

Here is what one Delphi user had to say about Delphi on "The Source's" bulletin board:

From: KIP 24-APR-1983 00:20  
To: WERNER, STAN  
Subj: BASH'es DELPHI comments (bb on stc)

This was posted on SOURCE bulletin board re: DELPHI

As a nightly "Source" user who is always looking for more and better communications services, I'd like to recommend (UNSOLICITED!) a new database to all of you users who look for improvements that the "Source" is always promising: "DELPHI". "DELPHI" is a fledgling database which has just gotten on-line and promises to give "The Source" a little competition in the future! They will have all of the News, Travel, Bulletin-Board, Shopping features of the "Source" and extras too according to their friendly management people. The great attraction to me, as well, is their "Gateway" feature by which a user will be able to access as many as 250(!) other databases (including brand "X", the "Source" and the entire "Dialog" library) using the most friendly menus I've seen yet! "DELPHI" also has a "Chat" feature that the "Source" folks should really appreciate. No longer do you have to be limited to talking in a two way conversation! "Conferences" on "DELPHI" can be "private" or open to as many people as are on-line and want to join in. "DELPHI" has a type ahead buffer which shuts off incoming lines while you type in your input, and then sends down incoming text from the other conferees when you are finished, IN THE ORDER THAT THE MAINFRAME PROCESSED THE INPUT AND WITHOUT TRUNCATING THE MESSAGES! You'd have to see it to appreciate the wonder of the absence of the delays we have all become accustomed to here on the "Source". This system allows you to type ahead your next thought while awaiting a response, and send it at any tie without unnecessary concern with protocol and turn taking!

If you're interested in "DELPHI" and want to know more, you can call a friendly and helpful fella named "GLENN" at 800-544-4005. He'll answer any questions you have and MORE! (Since I don't work for "Delphi" or know how to get you signed on, please don't mail me for information like a couple of people on "Brand X" have done....although, I'll be happy to tell you about the features I've used on "DELPHI" and glad to hear if you like it as much as I do!)

Steve Bashaw <tcp443>



[illegible]

NATURALLY COMPUTERISTS CALL the on-line services "networks" and as in all of the other kinds of networks, everyone uses them to their own best advantage. After beginning a dialog with Steve Bashaw about communications, he offered this outline of his use of on-line services:

From: BASH 25-APR-1983 00:32  
To: STAN

I am presently using Source (although less and less these days as my frustration level with their slow response time and "un-user-friendly" protocol grows more and more!) and Delphi. I have also just received all of the information relating to Dialog and plan to take the user courses from them; provided I can get my partner to agree that this is a "proper" business expense rather than something I should pay for personally.

My use of networks falls into the following categories:

- 1.) Using Dialcom Via Delphi, I profile key-words of topics of interest to my profession from UPI; using the articles etc., I create a newsletter of interest to clients---(sorry, its all U.S. Mail stuff!)
- 2.) Using the Source, I keep up with general business trends by reading their "BizDate" stuff; gives Stock Market general trends, feature articles on business ect.
- 3.) Using the Source, I get their "Monthly Money Newsletter" from the "Today" section at the beginning of each month; pretty nice and timely tips.
- 4.) Using Delphi's mail and conference, I participate daily in a Dungeons and Dragons type game which has actually become more of a Collaborative Novel and is known as "Time of the Legends"...surely you've heard of it???
- 5.) Using the Source's OAG, I get airline schedules for speaking trips that are in major urban areas 6-8 times a year and part of my business; also works great for occasional vacations.....(lets me keep my travel agent on her toes!)
- 6.) Using the Source, I check in on their Apple, Aviation, and Aircraft Bulletin Boards to see whats new with Apples and Ultralights (my "other" passion)  
...I'd like to use Delphi for this function, but, frankly, the Bulletin Boards here are quite empty!
- 7.) Then, of course, I carry on a pretty extensive personal correspondence with some friends on both the Source and Delphi.  
Eventually, I'd like to drop my Source use to an absolute minimum and stay over on Delphi. Until Delphi gets to that level, however, I'm stuck with using the Source simply because they have the information and services I need.

Hopefully, with folks like you, Werner, Kip, Jimm etc., Delphi will get to the place I'd like to see it at quicker than all of us expect!  
Anything I can do to help you, your newsletter, or Delphi, would be to my own ultimate benefit as a user, so, know that I stand ready!!

Steve ("BASH") aw

[illegible]

THE DUNGEON AND DRAGON type game being played on Delphi, called "Legends" which Steve mentioned, has generated hundreds of pages of play text. From what I have gathered about the method of play, a coordinator named Dragon accesses a programed game structure on his home computer which defines the "lay of the land" and decides what actions result in dangers to the players, what kinds of rewards they get (such as finding hidden treasure) and other factors. Dragon's tabulation of game activity is posted to all players each day via Delphi's mail system. Each player then uses these results to write a new script for themselves. One that Steve Bashaw wrote began like this...

From: BASH 2-APR-1983 21:38  
To: ALBAN, DRAGON, DURUS, ELFAN, ERIC, FTF, GANDALF, HAL, RYENWATER, TEX, WEB  
Subj: FIANNA

As Bash stands in Tulgey Wood at a complex intersection of paths both obvious and half hidden, he realizes that he must make his decision quickly to avoid being object of the observation of anyone or thing other than this seemingly harmless Secretary Bird. He must also leave some further sign of this path to the others so they can follow his way if they choose. "Secretary Bird, if you please, I presume your name describes your vocation and that you will have no objection to "taking a letter" for my friends that may follow this way. Rather than discuss price per page ect., I'll simply request that you bill my American Express GoldCard, so get your note pad ready, uncross you legs, and be quick for I am about to make O.J. Simpson look like a turtle as I pass through this turnstile!" The bird took Bash's credit card, passed it through a standard billing mechanism, handing back the blue receipt to the Dwarf/Hobbit, and "assumed the position"

"OK, nicely done," said Bash, inwardly surprised that this had really occurred, "Now, this letter is to be delivered ONLY to Obvi, the Swordsman, Gandalf, the Wizard, Sanjari, the Berserker, and those who are trusted enough to travel with them!"

"My Friends:  
Although little time has passed since we parted, and hopefully I am not too far in advance of your position, I will tell you what I have have experienced thus far that you may not know. When we meet again, I will look forward to your tales and the answers to some of the questions raised by the things which I have seen thus far.

As I left the clearing in Sleepy Hollow on the Southwestern path...

It should be noted here that while a computer is used to determine the outcome of each player's action, the players are playing against (or with) each other. Dragon's use of the computer program to define the landscape and the outcome of action creates constraints similar to real landscape and chance occurrences. The players are really writing their own adventure story which is becoming quite a collaborative novel!





is a file of messages kept by the Media Project both as a service to our readers and as an example of a stored message system which facilitates networking. All messages are kept on file for a year and appear in this newsletter at least once. (see the yellow form)

## SOFTNET SOFTWARE NETWORK

Expanded Availability of formats & distribution increases exposure of your programs. Experienced technical staff helps improve capacity & packaging for optimum profits. Publishers, software authors, dealers, please respond.

AMERICAN SOFTWARE, P.O. Box 1177, Mill Valley CA 94942 (415)381-1600

## FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE

For liberation from propaganda, just ask yourself how you feel about what's preached at you. Take nothing for granted, check everything against your own conscience. Ask yourself especially how you feel about the greedy commercialism and militarism that has dominated the world for thousands of years, and how you feel about the mutual aid alternative.

ELLERY FOSTER 122 E. 2nd street, Box 841, Winona MN 55987 (507)454-2474

## NEW AGE NETWORKERS

Volunteer your energy at NEW FRONTIER in Phila. Make a difference in transforming society. Call (215) 235-0312

## MAKE MONEY OBSOLETE

Computers make it possible to enable everyone worldwide to buy what they need just by issuing bankable acknowledgments of value received (AVRs). An hour of light work could be used as the basic measure of value, with harder work earning more than one such unit per hour. Banks could convert themselves into AVR clearing houses, and eliminate usury. Governments wouldn't have to tax or borrow. People able to work and lacking opportunities in the private sector could be provided with opportunities to do public service work. Those unable to earn AVRs would nevertheless be permitted to buy what they need by issuing AVRs.

Lets get people to talking about this idea.

ELLERY FOSTER Box 841 Winona MN 55987 (507)454-2474(day) 452-1859(nite)

## THE LEARNING NETWORK MULTIDIALOGUE

Seth Horwitz, co-founder of this newsletter, has begun a participatory and interactive correspondence group among the operators, proponents and supporters of learning networks. Each member of the group may submit a page or more per month of original material. This lets the members of the multidialogue get to know each other and helps to stimulate a creative exchange of ideas.

Many learning networks are finding a home in public libraries where in some cases the public can find people listed in the card files along with the printed material traditionally referenced there. These people usually have offered to teach or provide one-to-one consultation on the subject listed on their card. So, instead of looking on the shelf for a book, you can call the person on the phone. Learning networks also exist independently of libraries; they may be totally independent or they may be affiliated with almost any other kind of organization.

For more information about Learning Networks, and especially for more information about participating in the Learning Network Multidialogue, write:

SETH HORWITZ, 4713 Windsor Ave., Phila. PA 19143 (215) 729-3276.

## ARE COMMUNITIES ORGANISMS?

Study of the organism analogy leads me to believe that, given necessary qualifications, it is very productive to consider communities as a type of organism (macro organism perhaps). The analogy indicates that communities should "evolve" increasingly complex and decentralized control structures. Will the local networks made possible by computers and communications foster such "structures"? Will communities become conscious? What would it mean for a community to be conscious? I'm working on these questions and would like to hear your ideas.

FRED BARTELS 524 W. 112th St. #8F, New York NY 10025.

## NETWORKING AS A SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY?

I see networking as a contemporary manifestation of a process that has been active throughout history, mostly underground, in the form of horizontal support systems that have sustained our species through countless brutal, oppressive and irrational governments and religious powers. I think there are certain dangers in high visibility and publicity, namely, cooption by the commodity structure, infiltration with intent to discredit, and legal attempts at suppression.

Don't get me wrong. All that I'm saying is that we haven't avoided 1984 yet. We have to keep these things in historical perspective, locating ourselves between the goal of transformation and the great underground heritage from which Networking emerged.

Drop me a line and tell me what you think. JAMES KOEHLIN, 7750 Long Ave. Skokie, IL 60077 (312)725-0210

## OZARK CENTER FOR LANGUAGE STUDIES

"The Lonesome Node" is the newsletter of the Ozark Center for Language Studies. We work on six research areas.

Women and Language  
Language in Health  
Religious Language  
Verbal Self-Defence  
Ozark English  
Linguistics for Children

## OZARK META-NETWORK

Here in Arkansas the members of the various professional organizations (psychology, linguistics, medicine, NCTE, women's groups, etc.) are so few that there's no hope of forming regional groups for each ... particularly for the women. But we could have a kind of Ozark Meta-Network, with the two or three female members from each group all meeting together every month or quarterly to build some sort of community. I have a suitable place for the meeting and could handle getting out announcements and minutes and so on, if ONLY I could get in touch with the women themselves. Can you help? SUZETTE HADEN ELGIN, Route 4, Box 192 E, Huntsville AR 72740 (501)559-2273.

## BANKING, DEBT, ECONOMICS, INFLATION, MONEY, "THE REAL CAUSE OF INFLATION" (title)

It is common knowledge that the world economy is very sick. But few understand why in its current structure it must be so. Our public medium of exchange is created or destroyed at will by a private monopoly which operates to return profit to its members. This elite system is so powerful that controlled media and bought economists pretend it is beyond our ability to affect, or even understand.

But the truth is amazingly simple. For more information ask about a booklet called "The Real Cause of Inflation" when writing to: Steve Washam, P.O. Box 605, College Place, WA 99324

## COMPUTER SOFTWARE DISCOUNTS

Novatronics provides the opportunity to acquire software in all popular formats (Apple, Atari, Commodore, etc.) at discount, or to make it available to others as well.

Don Roberts 3921 France Ave. S. Mpls. MN 55416 (800)328-5727 (leave a message)

## THIRD PARTY SOFTWARE

is needed for national and international distribution. Alternative learning materials, appropriate technology, positive, life engendering games, etc. in aesthetic formats.

DON ROBERTS 3921 France Ave S. Mpls MN 55416 (800)328-5727 (leave a message)

## THIRD WORLD DEVELOPMENT

I'm interested in learning about third world development, focussing on appropriate technology, alternative energy sources, especially solar, and localized community cooperation.

I am trying to get together a reading list and network of interested people/groups. Also, what can we, here in the USA do to help facilitate such development? Any contacts welcome.

RANDY GIRER 831 S.48th St. Phila PA 19143 (215) 726-1494



ATTENTION all "Resource Notes" users:

Please always mention OTHER NETWORKS when writing for sample copies or subscriptions. Our reputation as a resource for those who send us material depends upon your response.

thanks,  
STAN

## Resources

DATA BASES FOR BUSINESS - Profiles and Applications.

This 178 page 8 1/2" x 11" hardcover book is an excellent overview of the electronic data base systems available to be searched for access to information pertinent to business. While other books exist which list these systems, this one provides profiles and applications cross indices of those which are most useful in answering business questions.

Besides the descriptions of nearly 400 data services and cross references, the book has three chapters of text which describe how to define your information needs and objectives, what "data base retrieval systems" (DBRS) are, how to select the ones you need and how to use them. The instructional information on how to use a data base system includes the specific commands used on the Dialog system of data bases, and is clearly illustrated with example searches showing the order in which the various commands are to be used and the results to be expected. DATA BASES FOR BUSINESS written by Van Mayros and D. Michael Werner is available for \$29 pp from the publisher, Chilton Book Co. Dept DM, Radnor PA 19089.

AN HISTORICAL OUTLINE OF CULTURAL INNOVATION IN WESTERN CIVILIZATION

Produced for the Consumer Cooperative Alliance Institute, this 8 page newspaper contains 4 pages of wall charts chronicling developments in the concepts of community and cooperation beginning with the Essenes. It also has several articles such as "Feminism and Domestic Economics," and "Community: Paradox and Progress."

The paper is a thought provoking and informative beginning to the study of current thoughts on the history of community written by people for whom these ideas are not merely theory, but a way of life.

Individual copies are \$1.10 or more \$5.50 ea.

EAST WIND COMMUNITY NETWORK, Tecumseh MO 65760

THE ANSWER MAN NEWSLETTER is a 12 page, bi-monthly about San Francisco Bay Area resources and networking on a national level. A complimentary sample copy is available by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope with 54 cents postage. Subscriptions are \$12 a year. The publication includes a four page question and answer section composed of reader's areas of research.

The "answer man", Gary Warne, has put together one of the most enjoyable newsletters around. It combines a salty humor with real answers to interesting, important and unusual questions pertinent to a wide audience. It's a treat to read, and looks good too.

GARY WARNE P.O. Box 11263 S.F. CA 94101 (415) 587-1842

BUCKMINSTER FULLER INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER. For those interested in the ideas and works of R. Buckminster Fuller, the Fuller Institute has begun a newsletter through which the publishers hope to provide a "basis for a communication network; a resource for all those working to make the world work for everyone." The newsletter carries Mr. Fuller's speaking schedule as well as notes of interest on the impact his ideas are having in the world. Subscriptions are \$6/8 issues

THE FULLER INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER 3501 Market St. Phila PA 19104 (215) 387-5400

OFFICE TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT

An 8 page 8-1/2" x 11" monthly newsletter, edited by Robert Moskowitz, on the use of electronic technology (especially small computers) in business. OTM provides short reports on new software, hardware, and new services which are available to business users of micro computers. An advisory group composed of professional managers and office technology specialists provide tips and inside info on this growing field. OTM is available electronically via NEWSNET (800/345-1301)

Subscription info upon request from: OFFICE TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT 10076 Boca Entrada Blvd. Boca Raton, FL 33433 (305) 483-2600

MEDIA & METHODS is a lively and colorful magazine guide to teaching aids for educators. Topics range from film libraries to data banks. Recent issues have covered the Plato Educational System's new releases for micro computers, educational films and hardware. One article covered Philadelphia's experimental High School For International Affairs, while another inspected the film E.T. for its cultural impact on children.

Special resource sections present guides to media, reviews of books, sources of films and other materials, "freebies" and information on Funding Deadlines as regular features.

Media & Methods is the official publication of the American Society of Educators, subscriptions are \$24/9 issues. 1511 Walnut St. Phila PA 19102

THE NEW CONSCIOUSNESS SOURCEBOOK - Spiritual Community Guide #5

This book presents straightforward text descriptions of hundreds of New Age and spiritual groups, centers and projects. These are not reviews, but self-descriptions, written and compensated for by the people directly involved in each group. The clarity of print and high quality of the book help to present each group fairly and without any of the usual flash of "logos" popular in many New Age "directories."

A great deal of attention is paid to detail in this book and it is easy to use. It contains indices by subject and location, classified ads, a few display ads placed together in the classified section, and lists of peace groups. A number of articles by prominent spiritual leaders focusing on the issue of disarmament are presented as well as articles on such subjects as foot massage and letting go of fear.

According to the foreword, approximately 20% of all spiritual and consciousness groups in existence are listed in this 256 page 5" x 8", bound paperback book.

It is available in bookstores for \$7.95, or write: Spiritual Community/NAM Box 1067 Berkeley CA 94701 (415) 644-3229

DAS ADRESBUCH ALTERNATIVER PROJEKTE Over 500 pages (5"x7-1/2") and written mostly in German, this is an extensive European Resource guide to alternative projects. The British and U.S.A. sections are written in English, while most of the entries are for groups in Germany. It contains several indices including an index of the alternative press.

One sentence in the "Vorwort" (foreword) stood out to this English reading editor. The German writer was probably commenting on previous editions and wrote: "Danke fur das Feedback!" complete with the capital "F". I can't imagine that feedback is an original German word...

The price is listed as \$10, U.S. Mandala Verlag Peter Meyer Redaktion AAP Postfach 60 D-5429 Klingelbach, Post Katzenlnbogen West Germany

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HARPSICORD NETWORK provides a means of communication for those interested in early keyboard instruments and the music written for them.

JANE BUTTARS 1143 Sixth St. Boulder CO 80302

COMMON GROUND Quarterly. This publication has no relationship to the other Common Ground paper in California - It is quite different in many ways. This is a news and arts magazine (glossy cover) published by rural/urban, socially/politically/ecologically aware people located in St. Peters Pennsylvania. The publisher, Tom Bissinger, has been a theater director, playwright, video activist, artist and organizer of happenings and social/political events. The latest issue of Common Ground presents an in-depth report on the events surrounding the recent protests against the pumping station proposed by Philadelphia Electric to supply their Limeric Nuclear Power station with water from the Delaware River and includes an interview with Abbie Hoffman. Nearly twenty pages are devoted to this report, presenting background on the River, the Electric Co. and the protests.

Other articles on Canadian Geese, NASA, the manipulation of the weather, a personal report on hiking the Pacific Crest Trail, poetry, music and a reprint from PLANET DRUM "No Nukes and Bio Roots", rounds out the issue.

Subscriptions are \$8/4 issues (samples are \$2.50) COMMON GROUND Box 83 St. Peters PA 19470

THE VILLAGE SCRIBE helps you write to public officials. This service puts the power of word processing at your disposal. You may mail or dictate your letters (onto cassette tapes). The Village Scribe types your letter, checks for spelling errors, merges your letter with each name & address and sends you back a whole bundle of individually typed letters, stamped and addressed envelopes and a copy for your files.

Translations for other languages are also available.

Write or call for current prices and new services, or if you are interested in starting your own Village Scribe business.

NICOLE LANGLEY Box 4312, Denver CO 80204 (303) 321-4241

PORTABLE DWELLING newsletter.

Eclectically interweaves "space-age" and "primitive" technology for lighter, freer, saner living. Plans for simple low-cost comforts, easily improvised anywhere. Candid product reports. Free personal ads...\$2 yearly, 3 issues.

MESSAGE POST POB 190-nt, Philomath, OR 97370

CABLE ACCESS NEWS

Published by the Cable Television Access Coalition in Boston, an organization which has been active in the push for a "Public Access Corporation" to administer the public channels made available via Boston's new cable TV system.

Boston is the first major city to write support for a public Access Corporation into the requirements for the cable franchise.

Write to them if you need information about their experiences. Cable Access News PO Box 546 Kenmore Station, Boston MA 02215

THE JOURNAL OF VOLUNTEER ADMINISTRATION covers issues in the field of volunteerism, mostly for the professional administrators of volunteer programs. It offers new ideas for the development of new programs and the maintenance of existing ones. It provides in-depth analysis of the relationships among volunteers, clients and administrators. JVA seeks to promote better volunteer services and more fulfilling roles for staff people.

Subscriptions are a benefit of membership in the Association for Volunteer Administrators. Non-members may subscribe for \$20/year for 4 issues. P.O. Box 4584, Boulder, CO 80306

COMPUTER USE IN SOCIAL SERVICES (CUSS) Network

Arriving just in time for inclusion in this issue, the 16 page Winter/Spring 83 (double issue) 8" x 11", small print, typeset newsletter packs plenty of info on the use of computers by the networks members. It has lots of contacts, articles and self-descriptions of projects and people who use computers in their work. We'll carry a more extensive review in the next issue...this will be a newsletter to watch for exciting developments in computerized networking in social services. Subscription/memberships are \$10 or \$5 for students and the poor. DICK SCHOECH, UTA, P.O. Box 19129, Arlington TX 76019

CATALOG OF CORRESPONDENCE

This catalog contains listings from people who are interested in exchanging letters. General categories include politics, religion, and literary issues. The editor is promoting "the exchange of letters for their own sake" and has presented 9 very interesting letter writers with 21 specific interests in his first issue. For more info, write a letter to:

THE READER'S LEAGUE P.O. Box 6218 Albany CA 94706

LIGHT STREAMS Directory, New Age (DNA) is a 74 page 8 1/2" x 11" directory of individuals listing interests, services, goals and needs of people in the Gainesville, Florida area. Each person listed has as much space as they need to express themselves in their own words. Complete with cross indexing this, is an excellent public service. No price is listed, write for more info to: Paul Hoffman 807 N.W. 40th Ave. Gainesville, FL 32601

PHILADELPHIA MATCH is a service which offers to match both young and old who are seeking or offering living space. At least one of the persons involved in each of the final matches must be 60 years old or over.

Older people who need housing or want to share their home with another older person or a young person seeking an intergenerational living experience may apply.

A fee of \$25 per application is charged and a trial living arrangement is suggested for those selected to consider a match.

For more info call (in Philadelphia) Ms. Betty Manley or Gerry Lauter (215) 848-7700

# Letters

Stan:

Thanx for the recent excerpts from the article by Ted Nelson. Of course, once again, Nelson has isolated the problem and articulated it perfectly. The difficulty with "computer people" is that they, (not unlike lawyers!) have been subjected to a system of learning or education which molds their personalities so that they "think" differently! Computer people are very literal! Computer people are as impatient as "a trained squirrel" because their concept of time has been altered by their interaction with machines to which time as no meaning, or, at least an altered meaning; (ergo: the distinction between "real time" and "cpu time"). Computer people do not "think" sequentially, but, rather, they "GOTO" one thought from another and sometimes skip everything in between. "Computer People" are neither "bad" nor "good" in their ability to communicate to "Non-Computer People"....they are just dealing with a "Seperate Reality" (as Carlos Castaneda is wont to say!). What MUST happen, however, is that a cadre of people who understand both "Computer" and "Non-Computer" people must arise!!! Whenever societies become simplistic, experts must arise. AND, whenever society becomes complex, the Generalist must appear again and "Design Simplicity" that does not compromise the achievements of the "Computer People", BUT, does make it accessible!!!

I trust that you ARE one of these people, Stan! Werner is one as well!! God bless you both!! Without you, this media will perish at the hands of an angry ("angry" people are always frightened more than they are angered by the object of their scorn, eh?) mob of "Non-Computer" people who will be re-enacting fears as foundless, yet understandable and forgivable, as those who cheered at the Salem witch trials.....all for the lack of minds willing and able to pierce something difficult and lay it open before the others as meaningful, simple and usable!

Steve Bashaw

Dear Stan,

This is the first I've heard of you guys and your work as well. It's absolutely terrific! Enclosed is some literature on us. We'll be putting out a "People's Resource Guide to New York City" in a couple of weeks, which will include hundreds of local and national groups working in the human services field -- we plan to start a national ride share service called "Ride Line" as a means of generating a regular income.

We are always interested in serving as a networking contact/catalyst both in the New York City area and beyond. We've got thousands of resources and contacts on file and are happy to make whatever information we have available to those who would put it to good use.

Hope to hear from you again.

Sincerely,

Jim Wiener

Jim is the Co-coordinator of The People's Resource Collective, 799 Broadway, Suite 325 N.Y.C. 10003.  
Switchboard Phone: 212-505-6200



...some of us will be very anxious  
to make our first terminal purchase!

AS BILL ELLIS NOTED in his letter (p 29), if something is important, it will get around...

In O.N. #3, Roger Pritchard wrote about the economics of providing network services and his views on earning a living by such work. His article was reprinted by Johnny Light and then read by Pat Wagner. Pat replied directly to Roger who is a user of Pat's service (see p4 for Pat's description of Open Network). Roger then forwarded Pat's letter here so that we all may share her insights.

Hello Roger,

I was pleased that Johnny (Johnny Light) sought you out to write about finances and networking for a "new age" audience. Like yourself, we get dozens of calls here every month from people hoping to get rich quick with networking. However I had curious mixed feelings about your article. I think they stem from two sources.

Leif and I seem to have a different world view than most everybody else talking about networking, so we define terms like community differently.

Also, our experiences in running our project contradict many of the premises of your essay to varying degrees - for example, we think newsletters can do more harm than good and NONE of the successful information specialists we know use them. The office for open network and Network Resources are prospering and a variety of people and projects seem to think it is worth it to pay us for information. Even though we run a business, we are told by many folks in the non-profit community that we are well thought of.

I can't really argue with your ideas, only because I realize it would take weeks of talks to learn what each others' words mean and what universes we inhabit - even then, I suspect we would agree to disagree about each other's premises. I can say that after eight years, we have built a successful, friendly and useful small business that pays the bills and gives me a lot of personal freedom. We are able to do

it in such a way that allows poor people and rich people to use our services, and we have a decent reenlistment rate - 50-65% every year. I think there are reasons for our success, and those reasons are related to some of the stuff you talk about.

I do not believe it is inappropriate to charge for what I do - if people don't think I am worth it, they don't pay me. With all the people who tell us how "burned out" they are by doing good in the world, and all the folks who must work three jobs to pay for the things they believe, I am very pleased to be in a position where I can be paid for being useful directly by the people I serve. I was tempted to believe that you think that money and profit are "evil" terms, but then I remembered your background in financial planning - so I assume we are talking about different things.

There is a school of economics that deals with economics as information theory - they have been around for a little more than a hundred years and are called the Austrian School. Leif has been a serious student of the work for over 20 years - in particular, Dr. F.A. Hayek - who won the Nobel Prize in 1974 - has some good writing on economics systems as information systems. You might find his work interesting.

I do believe we learn from our differences - your essay did spark a lot of ideas - thanks for writing it.

Pat

# Letters

Stan Pokras,

Cheers for Other Networks -- even though I sometimes think we have more people than necessary talking to each other ABOUT a good future. But School of Living, as one of the early-voices for a decentralized, non-monopolized, culture wants to belong.

Here I want to enclose a few things, and ask a few questions:

Jessica Lipnack & J. Stamps have done a tremendous network directory. I'm editing a pamphlet on Community Land Trusts with Jessica for a cousin of hers. I know Bill Ellis of Tranet. But I wonder why so few ever give credit to Richard Gardner who STARTED the directory-networking idea some 10 years ago.

What really concerns me is that we not only talk ABOUT the new age, but we continually and consciously define the central and BASIC problems that can be solved to arrive at more freedom and security. Of course these are based in values and attitudes—but we can't rest on just fragments—a kind of mono-emphasis—people get hold of one idea (like new diet, health reform) and work it to death.

Nor can we be satisfied with GENERALITIES—like higher consciousness, beginning with myself, etc. We have to know

psychological methods and processes—to get from here to there. And most assuredly we have to direct attention to basic, fundamental economic-political realities. It's here that new agers seem to me to often fall short.

For instance, in a huge new directory of newagers, I see no place for the Henry George School -- a leader in clear analysis of and methods for reconstructing a stable economy. They're close to you—413 So. 10th St (Phila PA 19147), in the house where Henry George was born and lived—directed by a wonderful Jamaican, George Collins. You'll do yourself and the world a favor to know him. And we honor-work with Ralph Borsodi as one who gave his life to reshaping LIVING -- a salient and fruitful contribution to re-education.

All good wishes  
Mildred J. Loomis

Mildred Loomis is the Director of Education at the School of Living, which publishes the GREEN REVOLUTION, often known as "the grandmother of the alternative press movement." Her most recent book is Alternative Americas published by Universe Press.

THE SCHOOL OF LIVING RD 7 Box 388A  
York PA 17402 (717) 755-2666

local and regional groupings form their own networks as well.

Locally, Phila. WTR/WRL operates an alternative fund composed of resisted war taxes, provides information, counseling and literature on a variety of peace-related topics, and organizes actions to challenge people to consider replacing the military with proven and semiproven nonviolent alternatives.

In peace,  
Steve Gulick  
for Phila.WTR/WRL

for a copy of the list, or the names of people near you, write;  
PHILADELPHIA WAR TAX RESISTANCE  
2208 South Street, Phila PA 19146

Dear Seth & Stan,

Even though I haven't kept close track of "Other Networks", I know you're out there!

I and two friends are producing a new magazine for a network of astrologers who are also computer programmers, or just computer users or contemplating it.

The newsletter is called RAMC, Researching Astrology through Micro-Computers, with quarterly issues.

We'll have software reviews, news, tips & complaints and computer news on new models and price reductions. We see ourselves as a network, sharing our own public domain software with each other. This is already happening.

We'd appreciate any mention you have space for.

Thanks for being there.

Sincerely,  
Paul O. Hewit

P.S. anyone interested should write for a free copy.

RAMC - 1973 Yonge St. #1  
Toronto, Ontario M4S1Z6 CANADA

Dear Stan,

Enclosed is a copy of the inside pages of a brochure on the new film "No Frames, No Boundaries." Recently I viewed this film and, like others who have seen it, was very impressed and excited about the possibilities for public education.

"This 21-minute film draws its theme from the perspective of astronaut Russell Schweickart as he stepped into space during the Apollo 9 flight.

The film explores the "frames" of reference and artificial man-made "boundaries" that exist between nations and the current spending of \$500 Billion each year for armaments to defend them."

I am launching a project to publicize it. I'm hoping you will join me in this effort by contacting local TV stations in your area and urging them to schedule a showing. Send for complete brochures from: Creative Initiative 222 High St. Palo Alto, CA 94301

Mary Eubanks

OTHER NETWORKS,

I enjoy your newsletter and hope to see more of it. Networking has certainly come into national and international prominence in the past few months. Which means that many of us networkers are now spending as much time writing and talking about the way we work as working.

The extent of global networking is illustrated by a incident we ran into a while ago. TRANET had carried an article on bicycles in a 1977 issue. Some time later it appeared without credit in THE URBAN EDGE. In curiosity we asked where they had gotten it. It came to them from E-DEVELOPMENT NEWS a French network. Following on back we found ECO-DEVELOPMENT had gotten it from ELS in Kenya; they had gotten it from GANDHI PEACE in India; and they from TRANET.

We each may be small. But if we have something the world wants to hear, it gets around.

Do keep up the good work,  
Bill Ellis

Bill Ellis is the Executive Secretary of TRANET (which publishes a quarterly journal on transnational appropriate technology), Box 567, Rangely MA 04970.

His paper titled "Transnational Networks and World Order" appeared recently (Vol 8, No 4 1982 p9.) TRANSNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES, Case Postale 161, 1211 Geneve 16, Switzerland

Dear Stan,

Vol 1, No 4 of Other Networks reached me today and I congratulate you on an excellent issue.

I have completed my book (for Pilgrim Press) FAMILY SURVIVAL: BUILDING NETWORKS OF SUPPORT AROUND FAMILIES UNDER STRESS. And now I am completing FISH SEEING FIRE (on using computers in religious research and institutions).

I hope in time to do some writing for your publication, and of course, to continue reading,

Cordially,  
Parker Rossman

APPLE PROGRAM

Computers seem to be making their way into the world of non-profit community services. Newsletters such as CUSS (p25) and RESET (p14), and others including Other Networks are continuing to report on this developing trend.

One specific request which has come to us from a number of sources is: "What foundations and/or corporate philanthropists support the acquisition of computers by non-profits?" This question we must pass along to you for answers. If you have any ideas for funding computer access for non-profits, let's hear them!

In the Philadelphia region, we are helping to form a computer supported resource exchange. The idea was prompted by the Apple Computer Corporation. Apple is offering 3 to 5 computers per proposal, to form a network. The techniques for sharing information among non-profits by using computers are far from well developed. We are building our approach to information exchange by attempting to bring together groups which will naturally exchange with each other using all the methods which are appropriate, including but not limited to computers.

In preparation for writing grant proposals we are gathering as many organizations as we can find who have an interest in resource exchange. The Apple proposal will be used to fund a seed network which will then be used as a focus and model for further proposals to other funding sources to assist those who couldn't be one of the 5 in the original Apple grant. Our theme for the network is regional and individual self-sufficiency. Groups so far showing an interest are in the areas of solar energy, urban gardening, the environment, a food co-op, a neighborhood education center, and a community credit union.

As the project described above develops, and others are taken on, the Public Interest Media Project, which publishes this newsletter, will be left behind. A new corporation is in the design stage - complete with a local board here in the Delaware Valley, and a national advisory committee. We hope that this new structure will help us to continue to support the growth of networks and the understanding of the communication methods vital to a healthy world. Of course, we will continue to publish Other Networks.

You can help by continuing to subscribe to Other Networks and by making tax-deductible contributions to further our work.

Thank you,  
— Stan Pokras

We believe that since the Media Project is a non-profit organization, our financial records should be open to anyone interested--especially you, our readers. These figures cover our expenses and income from SMALL WORLD and Other Networks, including all the gathering and processing of information associated with these projects since the Fall 1982 issue of OTHER NETWORKS

<u>Income:</u>		<u>Expenses:</u>	
Contributions	\$280.00	Printing	\$262.76
Subscriptions to O. N.	323.00	Postage	169.19
SMALL WORLD users	14.20	Research	50.59
		Supplies	74.62
Total	\$617.20	Phone	89.55
		Bank Charges	19.36
		Misc.	21.20
Balance on hand		Total	\$687.27
(for printing this issue): \$261.37			



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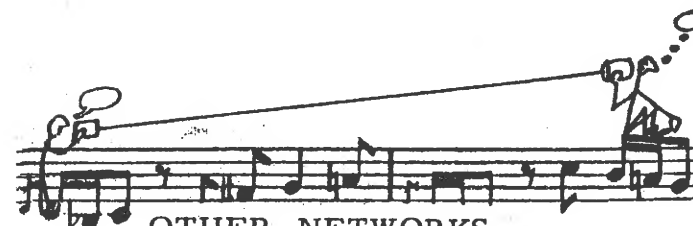
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all contributions are tax deductible.



Sometimes we think changes are happening in a culture because someone changes the way things are talked about. For example, it has become popular to call a teacher a "facilitator." Does it mean something different is happening? Not necessarily. Or the ubiquitous "workshop" has become a synonym for lecture. Unfortunately, I still am waiting to go to a workshop that lets me work at something, rather than sit passively and listen to someone else talk.

-- Pat Wagner

(see p 4 for Pat's article on Open Network)



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